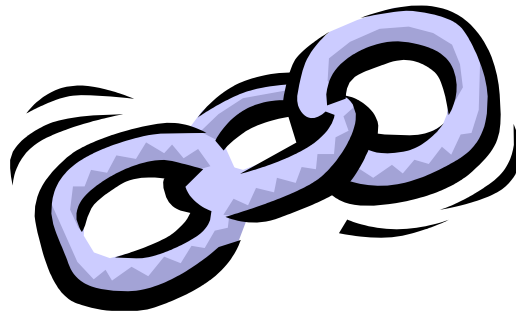
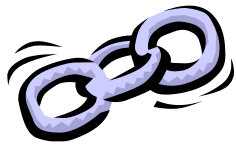


# Cause & Effect



1. Place students in groups of 5-6..
2. Write the following sentences on strips of construction paper:
  - “I just spotted my boyfriend/girlfriend kissing someone else in the courtyard.”
  - “The money my mom gave me to pay for my band trip was stolen.”
  - “I just found a hair that isn’t mine on my cafeteria hamburger.”
  - “My English teacher just told me she is going to call my mom because I haven’t turned in my project.”
  - “The coach just told me I’m getting cut from the team.”
3. Give each group one sentence strip, five blank strips, and a marker.
4. Instruct students to choose a group leader who will assign each student a number (1-5). Say to the group leaders, “If the situation on your strip really happened to you, what would your response be?” Write your answer in a complete sentence on one of the blank strips. Then the group leader passes his strip to the second person in his group. The second person gets the same basic instructions; however, this person is to respond to the group leader’s response. This continues until each member of the group has written a sentence in response to the previous member.
5. Then have students link their sentence strips to make a chain.
6. Then explain to students: “What you have just completed is a **cause and effect chain**. Many times events happen that cause a specific reaction or effect. That effect can, in turn, cause another reaction or effect. You’ve all heard the expression ‘Chain of Events.’ Well, a chain of events is nothing more than a series of cause and effect.
7. Now that you’ve created interest and introduced the concept, students are ready to go over specific information concerning cause and effect relationships.



# Cause & Effect

## Definitions and Signal Words



**Cause:** an event or action that makes something happen (It tells us why something happened).

**Effect:** a change that results from a cause (It tells us what happened).

Cause and Effect relationships are the heart and soul of most storytelling (short stories, novels - fiction). IN fact, a story can't really happen without them. These relationships may be explicit (stated) or only hinted at, but they are vital to the progress of any story.

Nonfiction relies on cause-and-effect relationships as well, but they are usually discussed more explicitly. Editorials and persuasive essays use facts and arguments to affect and change your opinion or behavior. History and Science articles illustrate how certain events or facts cause other things to happen.

A cause-and-effect relationship works like a row of dominos. When one domino falls down, it makes the next one fall down - a chain reaction. Similarly, events in a text cause other events to happen.

Particular signal words are often used to announce cause-and-effect relationships. When you find these words in your reading, you should highlight them. Some of the signal words you should look for are:

### Signal Words Indicating Cause:

because  
the reason for  
led to  
was responsible for  
contributes to  
on account of

because of  
since  
on account of  
produced  
brings about  
in order to

created by  
caused by  
due to  
influence  
makes or makes happen

### Signal Words Indicating Effect:

since  
therefore  
consequently  
outcome  
hence

so  
then  
as a result of  
subsequently  
and so

finally  
thus  
for this reason  
it follows that  
as a consequence